

Application No.: 09/991,971

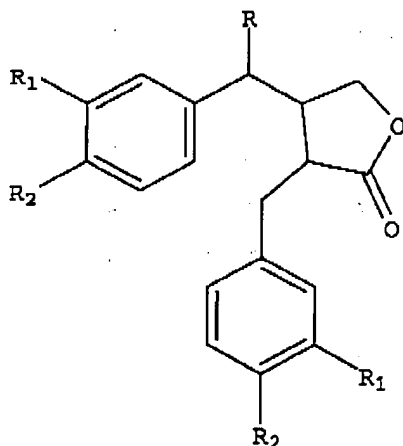
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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, including listings, of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting overactivity of phagocytes or lymphocytes in an individual by administering to said individual an effective amount of a lignan, wherein said lignan has the formula



wherein R is H or OH when R<sub>1</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is OH or R is H when R<sub>1</sub> is OH and R<sub>2</sub> is H, wherein said lignan is hydroxymatairesinol when R is OH, R<sub>1</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is OH, or is matairesinol when R is H, R<sub>1</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is OH or is enterolactone when R is H, R<sub>1</sub> is OH and R<sub>2</sub> is H, and

wherein

i) the phagocytes are neutrophils, and the lignan is hydroxymatairesinol or matairesinol or a mixture thereof and the overactivity that is inhibited is myeloperoxidase activity or oxidative burst,

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or

ii) the phagocytes are macrophages, cells of myeloid origin and the lignan is enterolactone or hydroxymatairesinol or a mixture thereof and the overactivity that is inhibited is TNF- $\alpha$  secretion.  
or

iii) the lymphocytes are T-lymphocytes, ~~and~~ the lignan is hydroxymatairesinol, matairesinol or enterolactone or a mixture thereof and the overactivity that is inhibited is lifespan controlled by Fas-mediated apoptosis.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the phagocytes are neutrophils and the lignan is hydroxymatairesinol or matairesinol or a mixture thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the phagocytes are cells of myeloid origin and the lignan is enterolactone or hydroxymatairesinol or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the lymphocytes are T-lymphocytes and the lignan is hydroxymatairesinol, matairesinol or enterolactone or a mixture thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein oxidative burst caused by stimulus of the neutrophils is decreased.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the myeloperoxidase activity in converting the reactive oxygen species, released by oxidative burst caused by stimulus of said neutrophils, is decreased.

Claims 7-16 (canceled).

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Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said lignan is hydroxymatairesinol or a mixture of hydroxymatairesinol and matairesinol.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said lignan is hydroxymatairesinol or a mixture of hydroxymatairesinol and enterolactone.

Claims 19-20 (canceled).

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